

WOMEN FOR THE WATER WORKS
JUNE 9, 2009 DEDICATION CEREMONY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Women of the Water Works upon the completion of the extensive restoration of the Fairmount Water Works. What was once one of the most popular tourist attractions of the 19th century will again enchant and educate both Philadelphia visitors and residents.

The Water Works began operation in the 1790s when a yellow fever epidemic hit Philadelphia. People blamed the disease on the filth that coated city streets and looked for a way to deliver drinking water and wash roads. Construction on the Water Works began in 1812, and after three years, clean water was being pumped to the homes of Philadelphia.

In ten short years, the Water Works was pumping over five million gallons of water daily. This engineering marvel was praised by many tourists and admirers, including Mark Twain and Charles Dickens. In 1909, the Water Works was closed due to pollution in the Schuylkill River.

In 1976, the Water Works was recognized as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Shortly before the announcement, the Junior League of Philadelphia initiated a campaign to preserve this treasure. Since that time, other organizations have joined the effort to return this landmark to its former status as a prime recreational, educational, and historic attraction.

By the turn of the 21st century, Women for the Water Works spearheaded a \$26 million project to restore the Water Works, as well as to incorporate a new Interpretative Center. The Interpretive Center opened its doors in 2003 with a mission "to educate citizens to understand their community and environment, especially the urban watershed, know how to guide the community and environment in the future, and understand the connections between daily life and the natural environment."

In 2008, the Women for the Water Works reached their fundraising goal of \$5 million for the final phase of the project, bringing the total dollars raised to more than \$28 million since renovations began thirty years ago. It is commendable that the funds raised are not only restoring the site for today, but will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the restored Water Works for years to come.

I share with the Women of the Water Works and the people of Philadelphia a common concern about wildlife, the environment, and the preservation of natural resources, as well as a commitment to a sustainable, livable City and region.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Fairmount Water Works and thanking the Women of the Water Works who worked tirelessly to protect and preserve this special gem.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT DR.
JOHN GRAVES

HON. MARK H. SCHAUER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Jackson County Intermediate School District (JCISD) Superintendent, Dr. John Graves upon the occasion of his retirement.

After an accomplished 40-year career that started as a teacher and a coach at Grass Lake High School to a principal at Beaverton and included leading four different school districts, Dr. Graves is retiring to go back to school. He will begin classes at the University of Michigan Law School, where he was initially accepted in 1968 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in economics.

Dr. Graves has led the 450-employee JCISD since 2001. He is most recognized for his organizational leadership and his foremost concern was always how well students performed and achieved. For the past 40 years, Dr. Graves has earned both the respect and admiration of other educators, colleagues, staff, and community members for his skillful and honest leadership.

Dr. Graves is a model of patriotism and well deserves our respect and appreciation for his many years of dedication and distinguished service in education. His intellect, eagerness, and vision will be sincerely missed by not only Jackson, but also the many other communities he has touched. May he know of my sincerest best wishes in all his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
HARRY L. POLITE, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harry L. Polite, Sr., a champion for the youth and the elderly of Brooklyn.

Harry L. Polite, Sr. has been active in his Brooklyn community for over forty years, serving as President of the Lafayette Gardens Tenants Association for 16 years. He is an advocate for adequate and safe living conditions in his community. He has also advocated for increased activities for senior citizens and community youth.

Harry L. Polite, Sr. is also the founder of the Lafayette Gardens Seniors Club. The Seniors Club serves 30 senior residents with lunch, computer training, job placement, and social activities. Mr. Polite has also developed youth softball and basketball tournaments. He has organized cultural and political trips for residents and coordinates the annual family celebration and block party known as "Lafayette Gardens Day".

Harry L. Polite, Sr. has also served as the Coordinator for the Lafayette Gardens Tenant Patrol for the past ten years. He is an Executive Member/Sgt at Arms for the NYCHA Citywide Council of Presidents-Brooklyn West District and serves on the NYPD Housing Bureau Police Service Area #3.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Harry L. Polite, Sr., a visionary leader and an inspiration to all of New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Harry L. Polite, Sr.

HONORING THE U.S. BORDER PATROL ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 498. Last week was the 85th anniversary of the United States Border Patrol. In 1924, Congress approved the Immigration Act, which established the U.S. Border Patrol.

Their long and illustrious history began with 25 Patrol Inspectors in El Paso, Texas and Detroit Michigan with the mission of combating the illegal entry of aliens, contraband, and the flow of illicit liquor from Mexico and Canada into the U.S.

During the height of prohibition, lawlessness and violence became more common along the water borders of the Detroit Sector. Several Detroit Sector Patrol Inspectors were killed in the line of duty, as smugglers attempting to bring contraband across the border resorted to violence to protect their cargo from the Border Patrol Inspectors.

A lot has changed since 1924, but the core mission of the Border Patrol is still detecting and preventing the illegal entry of aliens and preventing the smuggling of contraband. Since the terrorist attacks of 9-11, the focus of the Border Patrol has changed to include detection, apprehension and deterrence of terrorists and terrorist weapons.

America has given this vital task to a group of dedicated law-enforcement agents, who are our eyes and ears, in the air, land and sea. They work in a variety of climates, and seize a great deal of the drugs intended for our streets and our children.

Coming from a border district, I have a real interest in ensuring that the Border Patrol is equipped with the right mix of personnel, technology, and equipment that will enhance our ability to separate legitimate travel and trade, from those that seek to do us harm or enter our nation illegally.

The Detroit Sector of the Border Patrol is responsible for 863 miles of our liquid border with Canada, and in the last five years, Agents have made nearly 5,000 arrests—an impressive accomplishment.

Chief Patrol Agent Randy Gallegos, and the men and women of Sector Detroit are dedicated professionals, who defend the border and our nation owes them and the entire U.S. Border Patrol a debt of gratitude for their distinguished service to our nation.

They follow the proud tradition of securing our border that began eighty-five years ago in small stations, with only a handful of agents. Today, there are over 18,000 men and women who wear the green uniform of a Border Patrol Agent.

Without these brave Americans our nation would be less secure, and for that I want to offer my sincerest thanks. Our Border Patrol agents epitomize the motto of the Border Patrol—Honor First.